

May Notes from the Presbytery of Nevada – Presbytery Pastor Hilda Pecoraro

Mother's Day Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other.

Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers:

- *who cared for us when we were helpless*
- *who comforted us when we were hurt*
- *whose love and care we often took for granted.*

Today we pray for:

- *those who are grieving the loss of their mother,*
- *those who never knew their biological mother, and now yearn for her*
- *those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love*
- *the families separated by war or conflict.*
- *Lord, give them special blessings.*

Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can be and become all that we are meant to be. Amen.

(from the website, GodWeb)

Visits in northern Nevada

I am very excited to be heading north for two short-stays in May and June. The purpose of my “residency” is to spend time with the congregations, pastors and leaders in the northern part of our presbytery! Denis and I will be parking our motorhome in Carson City as our “base of operations” from May 7-25. We will be back up north again June 4-13, staying in Sparks.

My goal is to visit each TE/CRE member of the presbytery, with no agenda other than listening to how you are doing, sharing ministry updates, family news and anything else that you would like to talk about. I hope to provide support, encouragement and to pray for you and your family. Our commitment to being a connectional church is challenged by the miles between us, so this time is precious as we build trust, relationships and communication. I have already heard from several of you with dates and times that work well for you. I hope to be in touch with each of you in the next weeks to set up our meeting, or give me a call/text/email with a date, time and location that works for you!

My preaching schedule in the north:

May 8 – First Presbyterian Church, Virginia City

May 15 – Truckee Lutheran/Presbyterian Church

May 22 – Christ Presbyterian Church, Gardnerville

June 5 – Community Presbyterian Church, Hawthorne

June 12 – Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church

Please feel free to contact me anytime with prayer concerns, announcements or questions.

I'd love to hear from you! Hilda

Celebrations

Special congratulations to the **Rev. Pat Mecham** on his Installation as pastor of Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church. The Service of Installation was held on Sunday, April 10, with great joy and celebration. May God bless Pat and Melissa and the Spanish Springs family.

With joy we celebrate the Commissioning of **CRE Gary Koon**, member of Grace Presbyterian Church. Gary was commissioned to his ministry of support and pastoral care at both campuses of Grace Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 1. May God bless Gary, his wife Dorelle and the Grace family.

We congratulate the **Rev. In Cheol Lim** and the congregation of the First Korean Presbyterian Church of Las Vegas as they celebrate their 43rd Anniversary on Sunday, May 22. May God continue to bless the ministry of this congregation for many years to come!

Upcoming Events

Attention all northern Nevada Pastors: The Equipping Ministries Committee is hosting a Pastors Luncheon on **Saturday, May 21** from 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church (4884 Sparks Blvd., #102 Sparks, NV 89436. In addition to sharing a meal together, we will enjoy a time of conversation and fellowship. This promises to be a special time of sharing our lives and ministries as we strengthen our bonds in service to our Lord Jesus Christ and to his church. Please RSVP by May 13 to RE DeLois Basnett, Chair of Equipping at 702-375-3564 or deloismb@cox.net. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Southern Pastors: Needing some time apart to rest in God's presence and to renew your spirit? One of our newest members of Nevada Presbytery, TE Douglas Gregg, HR invites us to participate in a special series called **Contemplative Practices - Invitation to Go Deeper**. All are welcome to attend these sessions and to explore new ways forms of prayer and spiritual practice. Details in the invitation below:

*Welcome to our third session on contemplative practices! We will gather in the Community Lutheran Church Chapel at 3720 E. Tropicana Avenue from 9:00 AM to Noon on Saturday, **May 14, 2016**. We will begin with a brief teaching, followed by the practice of a spiritual discipline using an imaginative prayer exercise modeled by St. Ignatius of Loyola. As before, there will be time for silence, prayer, and sharing. Join us again in our exploration of the contemplative dimension of life!*

If you have questions, please contact Douglas Gregg at dgregg@cfdm.org or Ken Larson at 702-675-5690.

News from the Board of Pensions

With the revised 2017 Benefits Plan coming on-line, it's important to know that there is help available for any questions or concerns employers and members may have in the coming months. The first place to go is: www.pensions.org. In addition, there is more personalized support available by telephone. The following article is from the Board of Pensions website (www.pensions.org) and is reproduced here with permission.

800-PRESPLAN: Same Great Service for Members, Dedicated Resources for Employers

As part of its ongoing focus on continuously improving service, the Board of Pensions has reorganized its Member Services team to better serve members and employers.

Vice President of Plan Operations Kelly Riley announced, “We are excited about the transformation of Member Services to a full-service Plan Operations organization, with separate, dedicated teams for Member Services and Employer Services.” According to Ms. Riley, the change reflects the breadth of work performed by the team, at the heart of which is excellent delivery of benefits plan services to members and employers. She noted, “It’s more than just a name change. Plan Operations more accurately describes our current and planned work as we support the Board’s vision of diligently seeking ways to serve more, serve better, and serve the Church.

“Plan Operations is here and ready to provide information, answer questions, and handle transactions related to Benefits Plan participation,” explained Ms. Riley. *Members* should continue to call 800-PRESPLAN (800-773-7752) for assistance. *Employers* should call the same number — but will be directed to resources dedicated specifically to helping congregations, church administrators, treasurers, and other employers resolve benefits selection, billing, administration, and service issues.

Most evident in the reorganization is the shift to three key areas of operation: Member Services, Employer Services, and Plan Operations and Integration.

Member Services provides high-quality, consultative service to members using a tiered approach — based on the level and complexity of each inquiry. This team addresses a full range of questions and handles general transaction processing. Member Services is also responsible for working across and educating all of Plan Operations and working with vendor partners and internal Board teams.

Employer Services advises and consults directly with employers and is their primary point of contact on benefits selection, cost, administration, and service. Critical to the success of Employer Services in serving the Church are two newly created account manager roles: the Employer Account Manager (for employer-related issues) and the Congregational Account Manager (for congregational issues).

Plan Operations and Integration is responsible for the design and implementation of the Board’s internal processes necessary to operate, measure, and continuously improve day-to-day service delivery in Plan Operations. Plan Operations and Integration also serves as an internal liaison with the Board’s Information Technology (IT) team to maintain and update several of the Board’s functions and systems, such as the Benefits Connect portal, telephones, and document imaging.